



Utility Poles: Facts About These Essential Workhorses of Our State's Utility Networks

The common utility pole is an essential workhorse in the state's electricity, telecommunications and cable television networks. Here are some basic facts about them.

How many poles are there in the state? There are approximately 900,000 poles in the state.

Who owns them? Most of the poles in the state are jointly owned by AT&T and either The Connecticut Light and Power Company (CL&P) or The United Illuminating Company. In one section of Greenwich, most of the poles are jointly owned by Verizon and CL&P.

Who maintains them? For each pole, one of the joint owners is the designated custodian who is responsible for the pole. Generally, there is an identification tag on the pole with the name of the custodian. For example, the tag may carry the name SNET (for The Southern New England Telephone Company, the previous name for AT&T-Connecticut), or AT&T, or CL&P, etc.

Whose equipment is attached to the poles? The electricity company's equipment is the top layer of equipment on the pole. Below that layer is the area for telecommunications and cable television equipment. Also, some poles now carry video-ready access devices or VRAD boxes closer to the ground for AT&T's U-verse service.

How long does it take to replace a pole? Estimates vary greatly depending on the location and complexity of the replacement. General estimates range from 8 to 18 worker hours for a low-difficulty replacement and 20 to 75 worker hours for a high-difficulty replacement.